

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA)

SUMMARY OF

PILOT/ESCORT VEHICLE OPERATORS BEST PRACTICES GUIDELINES

I. PRE-TRIP PLANNING

- ✓ Route review
- ✓ Pilot/Escort vehicle operator and equipment checklist

II. PRE-TRIP SAFETY MEETING

- ✓ Review load limitations
- ✓ Test communication equipment
- ✓ Coordinate with local law enforcement

III. LOAD MOVEMENT

- ✓ Know the load, and know the law
- ✓ Position vehicles in compliance with regulations and permit requirements

IV. TRAFFIC CONTROL

- ✓ Develop and follow a traffic control plan
- ✓ Use proper equipment
- ✓ Follow defensive flagging guidelines

V. SPECIAL CHALLENGES

- ✓ Railroad Crossings
- ✓ Tall loads, overhead obstructions
- ✓ Steerable Trailers/Tillerman Operations

VI. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- ✓ Injury issues

VII. POST-TRIP ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Turn off warning lights, remove OVERSIZE LOAD signage
- ✓ Review/evaluate procedure

<https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop16051/index.htm>